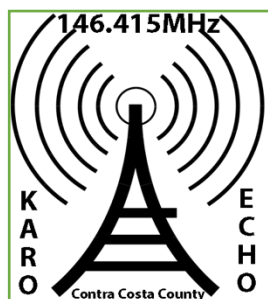


KARO ECHO Newsletter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

What's New	1
Upcoming Events	1
Upcoming Training Opportunities	2
Local Nets	2
Volunteers Needed	3
About KARO ECHO	4



We're on Facebook!

[facebook.com/karoecho](https://www.facebook.com/karoecho)

Important Frequencies

KE Primary: 146.415 MHz
 KE Secondary: 146.430 MHz
 4Cs Repeater: 145.110 MHz,
 (TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

What's New

On October 19th, Rob K6RJM, Marian KC6OBK, and Jerry K6KOP, visited the Kensington ham radio installations at Hilltop School, the HCC, and the Kensington Fire (FS 65) and checked the operational status of the radios and the batteries. K6RJM left a maintenance log, a 3 ring binder with the Net Control Script, Log Forms, IC-213 forms, IC-309 forms, the KaroEcho Field Resources Operations Handbook, blank paper (Form Zero), pencils, erasers, etc. Next stop will be the agency-installed El Cerrito stations.



Left: An example KARO ECHO emergency station, containing a 2m radio, large 12V battery on a trickle charger, and sundry accessories (battery-powered lanterns, forms, paper, pencils, etc). The radio is connected to a high gain antenna mounted on the roof. This is the Hilltop School station.

Howdy KE6BEE, is working on ascertaining co-sponsorship from EC Parks and Recreation Department for free meeting space at EC facilities as a sponsored club/community service organization. We could use that space for KaroEcho Meetings, Ham Crams, Elmering, and other activities when submitted to the City Council under the sponsorship of the Parks and Rec Dept.

On Nov 2 and 5, Rob K6RJM, Don NI6A, Marlene KM6UBZ, Larry KK6GIO, and Hal KK6NDF participated in presentations about ham radio and CERT to the Kensington Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts. They asked for an emphasis on emergency preparedness, so we did a demo to show how we would use FRS radios in a Search and Rescue scenario. Thanks also to Jerry K6KOP and Marian KC6OBK for making radio contact on both nights.

Larry KK6GIO is planning to submit our 501(c)(3) application; but it will cost around \$600.

Upcoming Events

Nov 12: KARO ECHO Monthly meeting.

Nov 17: Don, NI6A is holding another Elmering session at his house in El Cerrito, 2pm-4:30pm. Spaces are filling up fast, so RSVP to ni6a@arrl.net if interested.

Nov 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: KARO ECHO weekly radio net on 146.415 MHz, 7pm

Dec 10: KARO ECHO monthly meeting. We will vote on new officers, vote on dues for 2019, and also vote on adopting the KaroEcho Comm plan (please read [Karo-Echo Disaster Communications Plan \(05-2018\)](https://www.karoecho.net/documents) on <https://www.karoecho.net/documents>)

KaroEcho will offer a FRSGMRS radio training to all and any CERT graduates Class is after the holidays in early January. Contact Don, NI6A.

Feb 2019: A SET is scheduled for Feb focusing on portable and mobile operation. KM6HBO, K6RJM, KE6BEE, and NI6A are on the SET planning committee.

Local Nets

The KARO ECHO Net meets on 146.415 MHz Simplex each Thursday evening immediately after the West Contra Costa RACES Net, but never before 1900 local time.

The West Contra Costa County ACS/RACES Net meets each Thursday on 145.110 MHz repeater (TX down 600 with PL 82.5) at 1845 local time.

The Contra Costa County HF EmComm/RACES Net meets each Thursday on 3893 KHz at 1835 local time

Upcoming Training Opportunities

The East Bay ARC (EBARC) will offer a class to prepare applicants for the Technician Class Amateur Radio License, starting September 7, 2018 and ending November 30. See <http://www.ebarc.org/want.html>

The class will meet each Friday from at El Sobrante United Methodist Church, on Argyle Rd. off Appian Way in El Sobrante. Textbook is The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual Revised 4th Edition. Books will be available for purchase. FCC examinations and license applications will be administered at the final class session by the EBARC Volunteer Examiners for a fee of \$15. Please register by September 7, 2018. Go to www.ko6no.com and click Register, or email: ko6no@comcast.net, or Contact Ken Fowler at 510-222-0830

The Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC) also offers courses and exams. See <http://www.mdarc.org/activities/education/Classes> and <http://www.mdarc.org/activities/license-testing> Tests are offered at 6 pm before the MDARC regular meeting begins.

Don, NI6A is holding another Elmering session at his house. RSVP is necessary.
Next Class **November 17, 2018, 2-4:30 pm El Cerrito**

This is a follow-up class to the September KE class. The next meeting will be November 17 for fellow licensed amateur radio operators in West Co Co County. KaroEcho is running a series of hands-on beginners classes for existing hams who are interested in improving their radio communications abilities by receiving an overview of amateur radio, its possibilities, and as well as some hands-on practical operating skills in order to provide confidence and increased communications abilities.

Since we are all at various degrees of learning, a generalized class will risk being boring to some and perhaps over-the-head for others. So feel free to email me regarding topics that you would like to cover. Email ni6a@arrl.net The location will be in North El Cerrito. RSVP and you will receive an address.

If a common time and date can't be reached for all, please contact NI6A for personal mentoring on any radio topic. Possible topics are:
How repeaters work (duplex) including the use of offsets and PL (Private Line CTCSS) Tones,
Simplex operation,
Antennas (base, mobile, and portable usage),
Emergency power and batteries,
Message handling and procedures including the use of phonetics,
Net Operations,
Programming your radio,
Propagation,
Basic conventions, FCC rules, and courtesies,
GMRS/FRS and ham inter-operability and message center operations.
You name it, your Elmer has it :)

An ongoing graduated class structure will be developed subsequently after ascertaining the needs of attendees of this series of introductory classes.

See: <https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/training> for study materials

RSVP Don, NI6A@ARRL.NET for location

Volunteers Needed

KARO ECHO is a public service organization, and there are always volunteers needed. Please step up and help us serve our community!

Red Flag Fire Patrol 2018

With the oversight of the El Cerrito Fire Department, some KARO ECHO members have begun conducting Fire Patrols. To subscribe to this new group, send email to fire.patrol+subscribe@karoecho.net.

Become a Volunteer Examiner (VE) in the ARRL VEC program

Licensed Volunteer Examiners are needed so that we can conduct our own license exams. Go to <http://www.arrl.org/become-an-arrrl-ve> and take their free open book test to become a VE.

PR/Outreach and Recruitment Leader -- Duties:

Increase KARO-ECHO membership by recruiting new and old hams to participate in both the KARO-ECHO net and the meetings.

We also need more volunteers for our **Technical Maintenance**

Committee (maintain equipment installations, fix, and install new equipment) at all agency installations. Thanks to Mike, KM6CXI, Frank, K6FAC, Jamuel KM6HBO, Jerry K6KOP, Marian KC6OBK, and Hal KK6NDF who have been helping out. We can use more team members.

Digital Comms Workgroup

KaroEcho is setting up a digital packet 2m LAN to interface with a 70cm backbone similar to what is in place in Marin and Santa Clara Counties. If you are on packet or interested, please notify either K6RJM, KE6BEE, or NI6A.

"I have been frankly fascinated with that unpaid group of people with those ham radios, the Auxiliary Communications Service" [ACS]. [The ACS makes available] "a wireless system that seldom if ever can be totally disrupted by a disaster...ham radio operators are the heart and the soul and the life blood of that system."

*The Hon. Mayor Willie Brown
Mayor of San Francisco (1996-2004)*

Weekly Radio Net Control

In the interest of having more operators regularly filling the net control station (NCS) role, Karo Echo is beginning a rotation schedule. Thanks go out to the 8 volunteer stations listed below who will be taking turns at NCS. Any other operators who are interested in serving as NCS can contact net control manager Howdy Goudey (KE6BEE). There will be opportunities to fill-in when a regular station has a scheduling conflict and there is always room to add more stations to the rotation. The NCS isn't expected to lead an exercise each week, but is welcome to. The exercise/training group will continue to provide this content following the check-ins, as possible.

KE6BEE	Howdy Goudey
KK6NDF	Hal Graboske
KM6HBO	Jamuel Starkey
KK6GIO	Larry Vanselow
K6RJM	Rob McNicholas
KE6HCE	Armando Picciotto
NI6A	Don Simon
KK6SRD	Ken Gustafson

KARO ECHO

Serving the communities
of El Cerrito And
Kensington, California.

Web: www.karoecho.net /
facebook.com/karoecho
E-mail info@karoecho.net

*When all else fails, amateur
radio works!*

ABOUT KARO ECHO

KARO ECHO is the name of the Kensington Amateur Radio Operators and the El Cerrito Ham Operators mutual benefit association, an all-volunteer non-profit group of amateur radio operators providing auxiliary communications for the cities of Kensington and El Cerrito in the event of a disaster. KARO ECHO works with CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) in Kensington and El Cerrito, but is not an official part of the CERT program.

KARO ECHO meets in person at 7:30pm on the second Monday of each month at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave, Kensington CA 94707 in the Upper East Room. The **next meetings are Monday, Nov 12th and Monday, Dec 10th.**

Please see our website for more information at www.karoecho.net
You can contact the KARO ECHO board by email to info@karoecho.net

KARO ECHO Board Meeting Summary **Submitted by Don, NI6A**

The KaroEcho Executive Board met on November 6. Attending were KM6HBO, KK6GIO, KK6NDF, and NI6A. Topics included:

1. Reachout (to old hams and new): Holding a local ham cram after doing extensive local publicity. Don mentioned that he could not commit until after February. Hal thought that using the digital highway might help. To be discussed again next time.
2. The February SET was discussed. K6RJM, KE6BEE, KM6HBO, and NI6A are on the SET planning committee.
3. We will solicit volunteers for the election-nomination committee at the next general meeting in order to ascertain officers to be voted on at the December meeting.
4. Access to FS 65 radio room (Kensington Fire) was discussed. More information is needed.
5. Jamuel, KM6HBO is working on the repair of the two failed Kenwood radios (
6. Status of application to the City of El Cerrito sponsored meeting places through the sponsorship of the Parks and Recreation Office. Howdy, KE6BEE, is heading this up.
7. The executive board approved the KaroEcho Comm Plan
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jSxIKr9n9sioKxqbMJyFZgpJyWGKqxXu/view>
8. Larry, KK6GIO, is working on 501.c.3 status for the club in order to receive funding and grants. Fund raising and publicity were discussed as well as the possibility of grant Writing (contingent on 501.3c status), but no specific action items were determined.
9. KE-CERT Interaction:
KaroEcho can gladly offer Comm Training including the use of FRS/GMRS radios for EC-K Cert graduates upon request. Only EC9 has taken us up on this offer.
Don is working on a Comm module (Powerpoint) that could be added to the CERT 8 week training if approved by the City, as today's CERT graduates as well as most Area Coordinators have no training currently on how to report damage, gas leaks, fires, injuries, needs, or intel to the EOC. Until this rectified El Cerrito/Ken CERT is turning out CERT trainees based on unrealistic goals if there is no pathway to communicate to the EOC or other CERT Areas. KaroEcho also will continue to offer intra-area FRS/GMRS mapping services and frequency coordination to CERT Area Coordinators when requested.

We're on the Web!

www.karoecho.net